

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

2002 WATER QUALITY REPORT

— Proudly Presented by —



PWS ID#: GA0670005

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2002. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Tim Marshall, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, at (770) 794-5229.

Community Participation

Marietta Water operates under the supervision of the Board of Lights and Water. This Board consists of seven representatives who establish policy for Marietta Water. You can make an appointment to voice comments or concerns to the Board on water related issues by calling the Board Manager at (770) 794-5109. The Board meets the Monday before the second Wednesday of each month. Marietta Water maintains regular operating hours of Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. To reach the service and maintenance department, please call (770) 794-5230.



Where Does My Water Come From?

Marietta Water purchases water from the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA). The



CCMWA treatment facilities are supplied from two separate surface water sources. The Wyckoff Treatment Facility obtains water from Lake Allatoona. The Quarles Treatment Facility is supplied from the Chattahoochee River. Once the surface water is treated, it is transferred from the treatment facilities to the Marietta Distribution System and then to you.

During 2002, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority and the Atlanta Regional Commission completed a Source Water Assessment itemizing potential sources of water pollution to our surface drinking water supplies. This information can help you understand the potential for contamination of your drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

A Source Water Assessment is a study and report which provides the following information: identifies the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water; identifies potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies; and provides an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

For more information on this project visit the Source Water Assessment Web site at <http://www.atlantaregional.com/swap/> or you can request information by mail from the ARC: Attn: Matthew Harper, Environmental Planning Division, Atlanta Regional Commission, 40 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Marietta Water. Our water system did not meet the technical monitoring provisions of the federally mandated Lead and Copper Rule. This represents a procedural error and not a water quality issue. However, you, the customer, have a right to know what occurred and what is being done to correct the situation. We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During July 2002 through September 2002, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for lead and copper and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

CONTAMINANT	REQUIRED SAMPLING FREQUENCY	NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN	WHEN ALL SAMPLES SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN	WHEN SAMPLES WILL BE TAKEN
Lead	50 samples/six months	49	July 2002 - September 2002	July 2003 - September 2003
Copper	50 samples/six months	49	July 2002 - September 2002	July 2003 - September 2003

What Happened? During the monitoring period between July 2002 and the end of September 2002, 50 water samples were required to be collected and tested for Lead and Copper. Samples are collected by Marietta Water customers, then analyzed by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GaEPD) certified laboratory. Due to a sampling error by one of the customer participants, one sample was collected improperly. This one sample was disqualified and resulted in a Failure to Monitor (FTM) violation.

What Is Being Done? Because of the FTM violation, all samples must be redone during the next round of sampling. In order to comply with regulations and ensure the health of our customers, measures are being taken to qualify the sample sites that will be used in this next round of testing, which occurs from July 2003 through September 2003.

What Should I Do? While there is no immediate action that should be taken by the customer, it is always recommended that 1) only water from the cold-water tap be used for consumption, and 2) the tap be flushed for a period of 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using if the tap has not been used for two hours or more.

For more information please contact Tim Marshall at (770) 794-5229, 627 B North Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060, or at tmarshall@city.marietta.ga.us.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Marietta Water. State Water System ID#: GA0670005 Date distributed: June 15, 2003.

***Cryptosporidium* in Drinking Water**

The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority participated in a major drinking water quality-testing program called the Supplemental Information Collection Rule (SICR). Two of the contaminants tested for under this rule are the parasites *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, which have caused outbreaks of intestinal disease in the United States and abroad. These parasites are common in surface water, very difficult to kill and even a well-run water system may contain some live oocysts (in the case of *Cryptosporidium*) or cysts (in the case of *Giardia*). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is working to resolve several scientific issues that will allow it to set *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* safety standards. Our 1999 testing, performed at the raw (untreated) water intake on the Chattahoochee River located immediately north of the Johnson Ferry Road crossing, revealed the presence of *Cryptosporidium* and/or *Giardia* in several months' samples. These organisms were detected in the water prior to treatment. During this same period, the water at Lake Allatoona was also tested. No oocysts or cysts were detected. During 2000, the Water Authority participated in another study, sponsored by the American Water Works Association, analyzing for these parasites. This study was conducted at the Lake Allatoona raw water intake, supplying the Wyckoff Treatment Division. No *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia* was detected in this study. Our treatment technique is designed and optimized to remove these contaminants, therefore no additional precautions about our drinking water are currently required.

Table Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):
The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

What's In My Water?

We are pleased to report the results of our water quality analyses. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were detected in our drinking water during 2002. Although all of the substances listed below are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the U.S. EPA, we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

IMPORTANT-SEE THE ATTACHED STATEMENT ON THE FAILURE TO MONITOR VIOLATION FOR LEAD AND COPPER

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE (LOW-HIGH)	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorite (ppm)	2002	1.0	0.8	0.3	ND-0.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppm)	2002	4	4	1.1	0.82-1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Free chlorine (ppm)	2002	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.1	0.1-2.0	No	Drinking water disinfectant
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) (ppb)	2002	60	0	58.0	11.5-95	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2002	10	10	1.2	ND-1.2	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2002	80	0	48.9	15.3-115.5	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliforms (% positive samples/month)	2002	5% positive samples	0	1.4	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2002	TT	NA	1.4	0.9-1.8	No	Decay of organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources such as lakes and streams
Turbidity (NTU) ¹	2002	TT=5	0	0.28	NA	No	Soil runoff

The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority participated in a drinking water testing program called the Information Collection Rule (ICR). Most of the chemicals reported in this section are currently unregulated. The purpose of the ICR testing program is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of these unregulated contaminants and whether future regulation is needed. The ICR table indicates results of contaminants detected during the program, which was conducted in 1998.

INFORMATION COLLECTION RULE (ICR)

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE (LOW-HIGH)	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloral hydrate (ppb)	1998	7.0	1.9-7.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorate (ppb)	1998	124	22-124	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine dioxide (ppm)	1998	1.5	0.1-1.5	Drinking water disinfectant; Oxidant for contaminants
Chloropicrin (ppb)	1998	1.9	ND-1.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Aldehydes (ppb)	1998	5.0	3.7-5.0	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetonitriles (ppb)	1998	4.4	ND-4.4	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Halide (TOX) (ppb)	1998	254	94-254	By-products of drinking water disinfection

¹Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. During the reporting year, a minimum of 100% of all samples taken to measure turbidity met water quality standards.